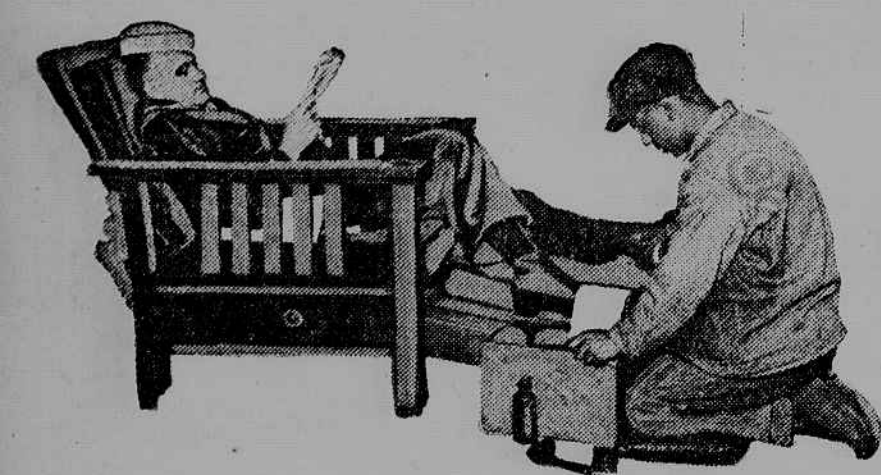


# War Camp Community Service Spells Happiness for Millions



## Army Advances Swiftly, But Not Too Fast for These Adventurous Aids

IN THE summer of 1916 Secretary Baker sent Raymond B. Fosdick as a special agent of the War Department to investigate conditions in communities on the Mexican border where our troops were stationed. Mr. Fosdick found five thousand soldiers camped at Columbus, N. M., with "absolutely nothing in the town that could in any way amuse them. There were no moving picture shows; no places where they could write letters; no library facilities of any kind; no home to which they could go—absolutely nothing at all except a very well run red light district and a few saloons."

This investigation officially convinced the government that there were war camp community problems.

When the United States launched her war programme against Germany War Camp Community Service became the official answer to that problem.

The War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities was appointed by Secretary Newton D. Baker in April, 1917. The Navy Department Commission on Training Camp Activities was established by Secretary Josephus Daniels three months later. Raymond B. Fosdick became chairman of both.

These commissions called on the Playground and Recreation Association of America to carry on their work in the communities outside and adjoining the camps under the official name of War Camp Community Service.

War Camp Community Service was asked to coordinate into a definite and ordered programme the resources of the War Camp Community, to supplement these resources with others from the folks back home, and to temper the whole into a wholesome nationwide movement for hospitality, keyed to harmonize with the training camp programme of the War and Navy departments.

The Playground and Recreation Association of America, through years of experience, had been helping civilian communities do just this sort of thing for themselves. This organization was ready for service. It has only to get these communities, together with those designated by military and naval necessity, to do those things for the soldiers and sailors which they were doing for themselves. It sent its own trained community organizers into these war camp communities. Within a month it had the United States covered with a network of local committees, each in the vicinity of a military or naval training station.

By the end of May, 1917, War Camp Community Service was a vital organism. That it is not better known is due to the unostentatious method it chose for making the civilian population of America responsive and responsible to its opportunity.

### More Than Two Hundred Stations

Over two hundred camps, cantonments and training stations are maintained to prepare the men entering the military and naval service of the United States to bear their part in the nation's defence at home and abroad. These stations are equipped to train thousands of men at one time.

Military and naval policy permits enlisted men to leave camp now and then in order that they may ease the strain and relax from the rigors of military routine and discipline. It recognizes the desirability of permitting friends and relatives to visit these men when adequate facilities are available or their accommodation in or near camp communities.

On leave the fighter seeks contact with the human side of life. He goes to town. Whether his visits are an asset or a liability in his training depends largely on what he does while there. And what he does is limited by what there is to do.

The government's hurried establishment of army camps and naval training stations over the country, through many American communities into turmoil. Some towns saw their transient populations increase as much as 1,000 per cent over night. Frequently they lacked the power of controlling undesirable conditions and the means to provide enough desirable ones. Low grade entertainment and open vice lost no time gaining a foothold where communities were unorganized and inattentive. Many towns had no public rest rooms or information bureaus, comfort stations or drinking fountains. The street corner provided the only place where a lonesome soldier could meet a companion. Some localities faced critical problems of sanitation, of transportation and of feeding and housing their greatly increased floating populations. And funds were not sufficient to remedy these conditions.

Boom towns in the West passed through these stages and eventually worked out their economic and social salvation. But they took years in doing it. There were no years ahead of these war camp communities. The Allies were waiting for America! Military necessity dictated that these conditions be made adequate immediately.

### Recreation of the Community

War Camp Community Service went to the assistance of these towns. This organization is now operating in some six hundred communities adjacent to training

camps and stations, helping them to extend hospitality to a transient population of soldiers, sailors, marines and visiting civilians, the total of which would run well into the millions.

War Camp Community Service attacks the problems of serving the soldier and sailor and their guests from five angles. It gives to the aim divulged in its title, namely, community service, the widest possible interpretation. First, it extends community service in the strict sense of the word. Further, it fosters community hospitality and community recreation. Its administrative tool is community organization and its certain by-product community betterment.

It is doubtful whether any camp town will ever revert to its small town ways of answering the thousand and one questions of the travelling public. Not even if the camp were moved or abolished. And there is no immediate likelihood of this.

In the average town of fifteen thousand each citizen constitutes himself an information secretary, and finds his store of hearsay knowledge adequate to any ordinary demand. The annual visit of Sells Floto's Greatest Shows on Earth or of the Dreamland Street Carnival heralds in new sets of incidents and unanticipated queries which may stump him. Instead of the familiar: "Which way is it to the Commercial House?" he is likely to be confronted with "What time is the fellow going to make the 'high dive'?" And it is humiliating to the average citizen of a small town to be uninformed regarding even such minor happenings within his own community. On an occasional circus day, or during a five-day carnival stand, he may fluff it through or make a full confession of his ignorance, but not so when every sunrise is the harbinger of a Fourth of July.

### Every Day Is Circus Day

For that is just what it is now in the camp towns. Military bands, scores of them! Parades, daily and sometimes twice and thrice daily! All the more exciting, because unannounced! Horses, wagons, cannon, machine guns, armored automobiles, flying flags, pitched tents, rows after rows of barracks, and all manned by men in uniform.

Is it any wonder that a town (whose thoroughfares are always crowded by the visit of a circus), suddenly becomes the Mecca for thousands upon thousands of visitors, when train after train ushers in fresh troops to encamp for training in the National Army, each with its separate bands and each with its separate sets of equipment? That John Doe, the circus visitor, brings a different self—a sightseeing, business, patriotic, or perchance son-admiring self, to see the camp, does not matter. The point is, John comes. He is confronted by an entirely new situation in his own and in the community's life. To him the routine surrounding the camp is complex, as it is to many a civilian and soldier living in the community and in the camp. He is at sea until he consults some one who knows.

And Mr. Average Citizen, thanks to the War Camp Community Service of any camp town, can now refer him to some one who knows.

There are stationed in the railway stations, in churches and schools, in the corridors of public buildings and in booths along the sidewalks of any camp town information secretaries whose duties are to make themselves useful to any one, soldier, sailor, marine or civilian, who presents himself or herself at the desk. From early morning until late night these versatile community intelligence dispensers consult, inform and advise; consult, inform and advise; consult, inform and advise.

If War Camp Community Service did nothing else but act as an information bureau for soldiers and sailors and their civilian friends it would be performing a worth while task. But this is only where its work begins.

### A Substitute for Baedeker

War Camp Community Service has issued a million or more booklets describing the worth while places near America's military and naval training stations. These bulletins are designed to tell where any camp town is and to outline its claims to fame. They list the clubs for enlisted men, throw in a few words about local entertainments and dances, catalogue the churches and the hotels, and contain a paragraph or two about lodging facilities. In short, they tell the enlisted man just what he wants to know about any camp town and tell him right away.

War Camp Community Service has opened hotels and lodging houses in many American communities. In some instances hotels already in operation have been taken over, modernized and opened under the management of this organization. In other instances hotel managements have cut their rates for the men in the service. For example, a large hostelry in a California coast town provides a room and bath to men in uniform for 50 cents a night. It serves them food in the grill at cost, and welcomes them to its swimming pool at 12 cents a

plunge. Social functions are held at the hotel for enlisted men under the supervision of the local War Camp Community Service. For these the hotel provides music gratis.

### Hotel for Enlisted Men

The New York War Camp Community Service operates hotels exclusively for enlisted men. One provides eight hundred beds with bath at 25 cents a night. Its reception room and reading, writing, billiard and pool rooms are used to the utmost. One point of particular interest about this hotel is that much of the furniture in its main corridors was confiscated by the government from German ocean liners interned in the New York harbor at the outbreak of the war.

Where the need has created the demand War Camp Community Service has opened dormitories and cafeterias in connection with its clubs for soldiers and sailors. Here comfortable beds with bath are provided to enlisted men at prices ranging from 25 to 50 cents a night.

The club cafeterias serve good food to enlisted men at under-the-market prices. Consider, for example, the chocolate covered soup dishful of home-made ice cream served at 7 cents a helping to men in uniform in the cafeteria of the Kansas City War Camp Community Service Club. It is a veritable Vesuvius of delight as compared with the win-the-war-for-15-cents size now traditional among civilian confectioners!

In towns whose hotel and lodging house accommodations are overtaxed War Camp Community Service manages agencies for placing transients in spare rooms. When an enlisted man desires accommodations for his visiting friends and relatives he finds the door of War Camp Community Service an entrance into the best homes in the community.

"What's the charge for this service?" is the frequent inquiry.

"No charge at all," is the invariable response.

When the enlisted man and his civilian friends went first to camp transportation in some of the adjoining towns was offered in anything on wheels and at whatever figure the elasticity of the driver's conscience and the willingness of the rider's purse permitted. The street hawking rivalry that at

Burton, leading retail grocer of any camp town, they become Mr. Craig, former district sales manager of the Oster Safe Company; Mr. Yates, formerly of the team of Tucker and Yates, comedians on the Western Vaudeville Circuit; and Mr. Bonney, son of the president of one of Chicago's largest banking firms.

Mr. Yates, as a private in the National Army, is just a "young soldier away from home whom it would be nice to have to dinner." But Mr. Yates as a comedian, who is known by a thousand audiences scattered to the four winds, is the most interesting guest who has ever honored the home of any camp town's grocer with his presence.

It takes a visionary to see a modern club, equipped with game rooms, writing rooms, a combination dance floor and auditorium, a barber shop and cafeteria standing where stood a musty old saloon building; to see a spacious lounging room substituted for a grease-stained dining room, and an immaculate billiard parlor for a beer-soaked barroom.

But these are the days for visionaries! The war with its exigencies has started "it can't be done" towards the dictionary of obsolete terms. The representative of Any Camp Town War Camp Community Service has put the solid foundation of fact under this dream!

### A Chain of Military Clubs

From coast to coast, War Camp Community Service has stretched a chain of clubs for soldiers, sailors and marines. Dark staircases which for decades had creaked out the bimonthly meetings of community lodges, have given way to light and airy corridors leading to inviting entertainment rooms. Curtained windows, replacing panes opaque with rain spattered dust, have transformed lofts, store buildings, unused residences, hotels and churches into hospitable quarters for enlisted men.

Twenty-eight clubs are affiliated with the New York City organization. They are open every day until midnight. They provide not only reading, writing, game and loafing rooms, but dormitories, canteens and facilities for their guests to clean and press their uniforms. One club features Sunday night community sings, and another, Tues-

be equipment. Will you see that we have it by that date?"

"I'll shoulder the responsibility of getting the furnishings here, but your building won't be ready. Not with material and labor as scarce as they are to-day."

"If you'll have the equipment, I'll have the building," was the general's challenge.

On the morning of the twenty-first day six truck loads of furniture and decorative equipment drove round a driveway leading to a colossal club building, characterized by a strong odor of fresh paint. The furniture was installed. Odds and ends were arranged. Amber shades of silk were placed on the lights. Logs were fired in the hearths. Linens were spread on coxey dining room tables. Rugs were laid. Nooks and corners were banked with palms. The bird cages were hung. The lid to the great concert grand piano was lifted. There was a pause for admiration. The keys of the instrument were touched. And thus was ushered onto the pages of history the Camp Sherman Community House, literally a fantastic dream come true.

Entering its inviting doorway the observer finds an expansive inclosure shaped like a Maltese cross stretching before him in dreamy proportions. Here seems to have been executed by craftsmen, religiously confident that they were producing a masterpiece, a fraternal shrine for a democratic utopia of the future. It is communal, yet well supplied with nooks and corners offering seclusion. It is gorgeous, but modest, and elegant, but inexpensive. To Theodore Roosevelt its scenic effect was "Stupendous! Stupendous! Stupendous!" The Colonel said he had no idea such a thing existed in America. Nor have millions of his fellow citizens living outside the state of Ohio.

It is a work of art—an expression of the emotion of a great people stirred by a great and world-wide cause.

The framework of the building is of hard pine. Wrought iron plates, nuts, bolts and screws have been used uniformly in making joints. The gables are supported by huge rafters of rough, unpainted wood. Their plainness presents the impression that they were determined to fit into the beauty of the structure's interior, regardless of their rugged, unfinished appearance. The builders

## One Thousand Reasons Why W. C. C. S. Is Needed By Uncle Sam's Fighters

THE spirit with which our soldiers leave America and their efficiency on the battle fronts of Europe will be vitally affected by the character of the environment surrounding our military camps.

—Woodrow Wilson.

REGARD the work of the Commissions on Training Camp Activities as a most significant factor in the war.

—Newton D. Baker.

IF the men in the service know that we who stay at home are behind them to a man nothing will stop their advance to victory.

—Josephus Daniels.

IT is possible to be lonely among a million people. One touch of real individual hospitality will frequently make a fighting man out of a homesick boy.

THE career of the soldier and sailor is a strenuous one; yet the physical exercise they get in their regular training only seems to whet their desires for athletic diversions.

—Raymond B. Fosdick.

IT is a typically American characteristic to "look on the brighter side." We sing at our labors. In camps and cantonments our fighting men are optimists. This is the spirit of which victory is made.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE threads together the various phases of community life into a definite programme of hospitality to the soldier, the sailor and the marine.

WHEN the homes in your town are thrown open to convention guests your town is doing the sort of thing WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE does for your boy in the war camp town.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE coordinates the resources of the war camp community into a definite and ordered programme of hospitality.

SOLDIERS are not strangers in big cities. WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE sees to that.

TO make any camp town "just like home" to soldiers, sailors and marines is the job of the WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE.

ON leave the fighter seeks contact with the human side of life. He goes to town. Whether his visits are an asset or a liability in his training depends largely on what he does while there. And what he does is limited by what there is to do.

HOW can I thank you for being so good to my boy? He has been writing me of your wonderful kindness. It means so much to me to know that some one is taking an interest in him down there.

THE most obvious way to make the enlisted man feel at home in the camp community is to invite him into the homes of its citizens. This WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE does.

TO me WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE is the most smashing and convincing argument thus far disclosed that the nation is behind her sons in this war.

—Lieutenant Dempster O. Murphy.

THROUGH WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE the United States government places upon its citizen the responsibility of helping to fit America's champions of humanity for their crusade. The responsibility is unique. History records none similar. To the average citizen it is an opportunity rather than an obligation.

OUR soldiers and sailors are not going to spend all their leisure time in camp. It is outside the camps that the greatest danger exists, and it is there also, as WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE has shown, that the greatest opportunities are found.

—Joseph Lee.

IF WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE did nothing else but act as an information bureau for soldiers and sail-

ors and their civilian friends it would be performing a worth-while task. But this is only where its work begins.

ENTER: WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE. Exit: The aimless and lonely hour of the soldier on leave.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE surrounds the camps and ports with hospitality and brings soldiers and sailors into hospitable American homes.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE places commodious community houses near the camps and enlists automobile owners for war camp community service.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE is as broad as the community. It coordinates the war camp towns' social, religious and political life, and by so doing compounds the service of each to the enlisted man. It knows neither race nor creed.

THE responsibility of WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE is to protect the soldier in his own independent right to enjoy his leave of absence healthfully and to extend to him such hospitality as a self-respecting, law-abiding citizen might be expected to desire.

TO the average American citizen the appeal of WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE to "surround the camps with hospitality" presents an opportunity rather than an obligation.

WAR-WINNING efficiency in the country's factories and shipyards demands sane and healthful recreation. WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE supplies it.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE is officially charged to aid in the training of the soldier and sailor by making the near-camp communities normal home towns to enlisted men.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE has aided the wives of many soldiers and sailors to find employment in and near training stations that they might be near their husbands.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE mobilizes the resources of the nation's great terminal cities for the care and entertainment of sojourning soldiers and sailors.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE stimulates lodges to welcome soldiers and sailors and organizes local square-deal communities to discourage overcharge.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE meets travelling soldiers and sailors, their friends and relatives, provides rest rooms and solves their problems.

CAMP community houses provide the most homelike atmosphere we could establish with brick, wood, furniture and flowers. Here the soldier and his own home folks can find an ideal spot for family contact.

UNORGANIZED, the most well-meaning expressions of community hospitality lose themselves in a maze of conflicting ends.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE provides snug nights' lodgings and inexpensive meals to fighters and their friends.

I JUST had a swell time in the WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE Club. Stayed four days, and really celebrated. One thing about it, a fellow in uniform isn't allowed to get lonesome.

—James C. Watson.

WAR CAMP COMMUNITY SERVICE is born of the idea that the soldier is a human being. This service is one of America's characteristic contributions to the art of war, as revolutionary as the submarine or the aeroplane or any other of her inventions, and perhaps more valuable.

—John Lee.



Dolling Up Is Made Easy at the W. C. C. S. Houses

Coney Island on a lucrative Saturday night. Panicky traffic was the result.

By securing the cooperation of the military police and of the local city officials, War Camp Community Service changed this condition overnight. One Middle Western camp town decided to limit its issue of taxicab licenses to seven passenger cars. It set the cab fare at 25 cents from town to camp, and established a 10-cent "bus line." The loading and starting of cars was placed in entire charge of the military police.

### Why Does a Soldier Desert?

A colonel in command of fifteen hundred deserters at Fort Leavenworth decided recently to learn the reason his prisoners would give for foolishly risking their military reputations for the sake of a few hours' leave.

He commissioned five men to conduct the inquiry.

"Are you ready to make your report on the cause of desertions?" the colonel asked the spokesman on his return.

"Yes, sir," he replied.

"Your first reason?" questioned the colonel.

"We find, sir, that the main reason for desertion in the army is homesickness."

"Your other reasons?" anticipated the officer.

"The other reasons are unimportant, sir."

"Do you mean to say that the reason the men desert from the army is because they get homesick?"

"Yes, sir," replied the foreman. "It is the longing for home and for home comforts and companionships that causes desertion."

To make any camp town "just like home" to soldiers, sailors and marines is the job of War Camp Community Service.

The most obvious way to make the enlisted man feel at home in the camp community is to invite him into the homes of its citizens. The War Camp Community Service does. And the doors of America's homes are swinging wide! Throughout the country new extensions to dinner tables, extra places and extra portions are preparing the way for guests in khaki and blue. Soldiers and sailors in groups lose their individuality. Seated in the home of Mr.

day afternoon French classes. Thousands of fighters enjoy their hospitality.

Many men had never had the advantages of membership in a club before going to the war camp communities. That their uniform in their pass was not at first readily understood. There were frequent inquiries regarding membership dues.

"Ain't they gonna charge us nothin'?" was followed more than once with a surprised: "Well, what d'you think about that?"

War Camp Community Service is at its best, perhaps, in the near camp community house. So unique is this institution that it is difficult to keep it from a conspicuous place in the foreground of any picture of this organization's activities. And no such attempt has been made in this summary.

War Camp Community Service has helped to build six community houses. It is proud of them. It cherishes plans for building more. It hopes to see them stand as monuments to America's war-born esprit de corps of neighborliness, which is this organization's existence.

### The House Ohio Built

The Camp Sherman Community House at Chillicothe, Ohio, will serve as an example.

The spirit of the people behind the Camp Sherman Community House is evidenced by the direct and efficient way they went about its realization. The 5,000,000 people of the State of Ohio put their shoulders to the wheel and heaped up a large fund. Each community was asked to give \$10 for each of its representatives among the soldiers at camp. At one time, when the building committee was confronted untimely with bills for \$30,000, a special appeal was sent to one community, and the amount in full was forwarded to Chillicothe in less than twenty-four hours.

When the plans for erecting the structure were nearing completion, General E. P. Glenn, in charge of the men in training at the camp, took a prominent Ohio furniture dealer to see the prospective site.

"See that cornfield over there?" remarked the general.

"In twenty-one days one of the finest soldiers' clubs in the United States will be standing in that field. All we need to make it ready for the men and their guests will

must have left them unpainted with a purpose, for they seem to set the color scheme for the entire community.

A rich blue stage curtain of deep velvet hanging at the end of the auditorium wing of the clubhouse offers perhaps the widest contrast to the quieter tones of brown and gray used almost uniformly elsewhere.

### In a Class With Atlantic City

Tucked behind an open staircase, which leads from the southwest wing of the room stands a mission fireplace of brick, stone and rough-hewn wood. This hearth looks out upon a vast lounging lobby, containing no fewer than twenty-two huge davenport, upholstered in brown leather and in tapestries of tones so subdued that they would pass unnoticed were one not trying to understand the technique used by the artist in creating a room so inviting, so restful and so homelike. Brown stained wicker has been used to vary the monotony, and there are one or two sets of parlor pieces in a colonial design of dark walnut. The rugs are of Oriental patterns. Here and there a small Navajo has found its way under a table lamp.

Through War Camp Community Service American towns were quick to place their recreational facilities at the disposal of the soldier, the sailor and the marine. Playgrounds, swimming pools, bath houses, athletic fields, stadiums, gymnasiums, amusement parks, skating rinks, dancing pavilions, and auditoriums throughout the country are now open to these men. Atlanta's Mayor has placed ten baseball diamonds at the service of men in the military and naval service. Enlisted men are daily guests in San Diego's world-renowned recreation building. This city operates a three-game-a-week baseball league, stages wrestling and boxing matches, and conducts track and field meets. Seattle's entertainment programme features water and ice carnivals.

Six hundred engineers stationed at Deming, N. M., transformed an unused reservoir covering fifteen acres into an amphitheatre. It seats 20,000 soldiers. It provides baseball and football fields, volleyball, tennis and basketball courts, and an open air swimming pool for Camp Cody's enlisted men.

